

Library of American Lives

ILLINOIS EDITION

1950

A Source Edition Recording the Recent and Contemporary History of the State
Through the Medium of the Life Histories of Its Most Constructive
Members, and Chronicling the Backgrounds and Activities of Its
Prominent Families and Personages with Emphasis
on Their Accomplishments in Making Illinois
One of the Great American
Commonwealths.

CHARLES M. THOMPSON, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., LL.D., Litt.D.

Economist — Historian

Author — Elementary Economics, 1917; History of the United States, 1919; Principles and Practices of Economics, 1928; Economic Development of the United States, 1938.

TWO ROYAL OCTAVO VOLUMES PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED

HISTORICAL RECORD ASSOCIATION

HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

concentrate on auctioneering, he went to the Reppert School of Auctioneering at Decatur, Indiana, from which he was graduated on December 22, 1945.

Mr. Adrian's career really began when, as a boy, he went to work for his father on the farm in Coles County. He was first in the restaurant business at 15 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, but gave up this enterprise. In 1941, he reentered the field and established the popular eating institution known today as the Adrian Cape Cod Restaurant which he sold in September, 1947. In World War II, he served for a year with the armed forces and then returned to build up his business interests. The Adrian Cape Cod Restaurant has achieved much of its popularity through its excellent drive-in facilities and curb service. Mr. Adrian has been active as an auctioneer since 1941, but especially so since he completed the auctioneering course at Decatur in 1945. This activity takes most of his time these days, with others looking after his other business interests. He and Sam Ball of Mattoon organized Adrian-Ball Motors, the Willys-Overland dealers for Coles County, in 1945. Their plant is located at 1213 North Eleventh Street, Mattoon.

On July 28, 1940, Mr. Adrian married Irma B. Haage of Hammond, Indiana, and on June 25, 1941, a daughter, Gerry L. Adrian, was born to them. Their home is at 2304 Prairie Avenue, Mattoon, and they worship in the First Presbyterian Church of Mattoon.

Mr. Adrian is active in the Republican Party and the Illinois State Auctioneers Association. Through his various business, civic and social interests he is helping stimulate the growth, progress and prosperity of his entire region.

VAL STOTLAR

In the automobile industry since the period preceding World War I, Val Stotlar of DuQuoin has had the Dodge franchise in that city for more than three decades and has been associated with both the original Dodge Brothers and the Chrysler Corporations. He is president of Val Stotlar, Inc., the Dodge dealer in DuQuoin, and is also financially interested in The Stotlar Motors, Inc., Dodge and Plymouth dealers at Benton, and the Stotlar-Allen Motor Company, Dodge dealers at West Frankfort. His civic activities are legion and he is known in DuQuoin as a skillful bowler.

Val Stotlar was born in Herrin, Williamson County, on November 12, 1894, the son of James L. and Alice (Cox) Stotlar. His father,

a native of Pennsylvania, was for many years a farmer in Williamson County. His mother was born in Illinois. Val Stotlar was born seventh among nine children. The others included Maude; Fred and Harry, both of whom are deceased; Leon, Lelle, Kent, Bob and Inez Stotlar.

Mr. Stotlar attended the elementary and high schools of Herrin, graduating from high school, where he played baseball and basketball, in 1912. He completed his education at Brown's Business College at Marion, in the same county. He then went to work for the Egyptian Powder Company, with which he remained three years, with the responsibilities of office manager, bookkeeper and payroll clerk. Eager to enter the developing automobile business, he went to Detroit from the Egyptian Powder Company and took the four-months' training course offered to prospective salesmen by Dodge Brothers. Soon afterward, the United States declared war on the Central Powers in Europe and Mr. Stotlar went into the Army. His training course came in handy to the nation's World War I war effort, and he was assigned to the motor corps as a supply clerk and parts man, and this work he performed for the Army until his honorable discharge in 1919. He then returned to his native Southern Illinois and in the same year established Val Stotlar, Inc., the Dodge agency of which he is still president, and he is still operating on the franchise he obtained after completing his course in 1917. With the Dodge cars he handles is paired the Plymouth. His DuQuoin establishment is modern and operating with complete shop equipment. The business has grown from the tin shed with dirt floor—a converted livery stable—into its present up-to-date quarters with a tremendous volume of sales. Mr. Stotlar is secretary and treasurer of the Dodge-Plymouth agency at Benton, Stotlar Motors, Inc., and a large stockholder in the Stotlar-Allen Motor Company, Dodge-Plymouth dealers at West Frankfort.

He married Pauline Wiehm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wiehm of DuQuoin, and both are active in the social, civic and cultural life of the community. Mr. Stotlar is former chairman of the Elks Cuntry Club and, bowling being his favorite sport and greatest recreational skill, he is president of the DuQuoin City Bowling League. He is active in the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association, the DuQuoin Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and in Re-

was for many years
county. His mother
and S. was born
men. The others in-
marry th of whom
e, Kent, Bob and

he elementary and
duating from high
baseball and basket-
ed his education at
at Marion, in the
ent to work for the
with which he re-
e responsibilities of
r and payroll clerk.
ing automobile bus-
from the Egyptian
k the four-months'
prospective sales-
Soon afterward, the
ar on the Central
Stotlar went into
urse came in handy
I war effort, and
tor corps as a sup-
and this work he
until his honorable
en returned to his
d in the same year
e, the Dodge agen-
resident, and he is
nchi he obtained
in 7. With the
ired Plymouth.
it is modern and
op equipment. The
the tin shed with
ery stable—into its
with a tremendous
ar is secretary and
ymouth agency at
Inc., and a large
Allen Motor Com-
ers at West Frank-

hm, the daughter
ehm of DuQuoin.
social, civic and
unity. Mr. Stotlar
Elks Cuntry Club
avorite sport and
he is president of
League. He is ac-
bile Dealers Asso-
mobile Dealers As-
ge of the Benevo-
of Elks and in Re-

RICAN LIVES



VAL STOTLAR

was for many years
ounty. His mother
S. r was born
en. The others in-
larr both of whom
le, at, Bob and

the elementary and
graduating from high
baseball and basket-
ed his education at
at Marion, in the
ent to work for the
, with which he re-
ne responsibilities of
er and payroll clerk.
ing automobile bus-
from the Egyptian
ok the four-months'
prospective sales-
Soon afterward, the
var on the Central
Stotlar went into
urse came in handy
I war effort, and
tor corps as a sup-
and this work he
until his honorable
en returned to his
ed in the same year
ce, the Dodge agen-
resident, and he is
nchi he obtained
in 1917. With the
ired the Plymouth.
at modern and
hop equipment. The
the tin shed with
ery stable—into its
with a tremendous
ar is secretary and
ymouth agency at
Inc., and a large
Allen Motor Com-
ers at West Frank-

ehm, the daughter
ehm of DuQuoin.
e social, civic and
unity. Mr. Stotlar
Elks Cuntry Club
favorite sport and
he is president of
League. He is ac-
obile Dealers Asso-
mobile Dealers As-
lge of the Benevo-
of Elks and in Re-

RICAN LIVES



VAL STOTLAR

business man. Dr. Morrow received his primary education in the grade school at Benham, Indiana, and High School at Batesville, Indiana. He then attended Marion Normal College at Marion, Indiana. He entered the Kentucky School of Medicine in 1903, at Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained two years and then transferred to the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1908. From June 1, 1908 until December, 1950, Dr. Morrow was active in Illinois' state hospitals, rising from intern to physician, to Assistant Superintendent and finally to the position of Superintendent of the system. June 1, 1908, marked the beginning of his internship at Elgin State Hospital. From June, 1909, to May, 1916, Dr. Morrow served the staff of the Anna State Hospital, at Anna, Illinois, in the capacity of assistant physician, physician and Assistant Superintendent. In May, 1916, he became associated with the Kankakee State Hospital, where he remained until March, 1922, when he was transferred to the East Moline State Hospital where he remained until September, 1927, when he returned to the Kankakee State Hospital, in the rank of Assistant Superintendent. In April, 1937, he was promoted to the position of Superintendent of that institution, which post he held with an ever increasing reputation as alienist and institutional administrator, until by state law he was compelled to retire from his position in 1950. Because he had devoted his life in the interest of the mentally ill, Dr. Morrow, accustomed to activity, then accepted the post of Assistant Superintendent of Logansport State Hospital, Logansport, Indiana. He was then approaching his seventieth birthday.

In October, 1915, Dr. Morrow was married to Ruth Elizabeth Carter, who was born in Anna, September 27, 1892. To this union, two sons were born, the first, Dean Weston, died in infancy; the other, George William Morrow, Jr., born November 13, 1925, was a medical student of the University of Illinois in 1950.

To Dr. Morrow is credited the great growth of the Kankakee State Hospital, which at the time of his retirement had a staff of fifteen medical men, thirteen consultants and twenty-eight nurses. As it so happens, the institution, the fourth state hospital erected in Illinois, opened its doors two years before Dr. Morrow's birth, the cornerstone having been laid in 1878. In 1950, the institutional population was 4300 and under Dr. Morrow, an extensive

building program has been carried out, which includes a modern 150-bed surgical and medical hospital, a new 72-bed Veterans' ward, fire station, power and heating unit, staff room and new X-rays, chemical and bacteriological laboratories. Dr. Morrow is a member of the Kankakee County and Illinois State Medical Societies, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and holds a certificate in psychiatry from the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. He is also a member of the Illinois Mental Hygiene Society and the Illinois Psychiatric Society. He is a Methodist and a Mason, and besides medicine his favorite activity is fishing. He became a beloved figure in Illinois institutions, and has achieved national reputation as an institutional director and alienist.

GEORGE WOODRUFF ALLEN

At the age of twenty-six George Woodruff Allen of Du Quoin was a district superintendent of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York, such was his meteoric rise in the business world. Today he is the head of a large general insurance agency which he founded in 1922, a director and secretary-treasurer of the Du Quoin Home Loan Association and president of Sunset Memorial Park, Inc. of Du Quoin. He is, in addition, a civic leader of the community, one active in board of education and religious work and in all the major civic organizations.

Mr. Allen was born at Gardner, Johnson County, Kansas, on December 11, 1891. His parents were Henry T. and Laura Belle (Cornelius) Allen. His father, a corn and wheat farmer, was a native of Ohio; his mother was one of the "Pennsylvania Dutch." Mr. Allen's paternal grandfather, John Allen, was the progenitor of the family in America. Born in Chesterfield, England, on April 15, 1811, he came to the New World at an early age, settling in Poland, Ohio where he established the first iron foundry. His wife was Mary (Woodruff) Allen, born at Calow, England on December 22, 1811.

George Woodruff Allen began his education in the public schools of his native county in Kansas. Later he went to high school at Makanda, in Jackson County, Illinois, graduating in 1911. In the school year 1911-1912 he was a student at what is now called Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. When he left the university, he returned to Makanda, where for the next two years he worked in a general

store. Afterward he spent a year as a traveling salesman for a grocery firm, his territory being southern Illinois. In December 1916 Mr. Allen became agent for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at Christopher, in Franklin County. A year and one-half later, when he was twenty-six, he was made superintendent of the district with headquarters at Du Quoin. In 1922 he established his own insurance and real estate agency in Du Quoin and has since become one of the better known men in this field in Southern Illinois. In 1923 he helped organize the Du Quoin Home Loan Association and since that time has been on its board of directors, serving as secretary-treasurer since 1926. In 1938 he and his son, Woodruff Eugene Allen founded Sunset Memorial Park at Du Quoin and he has been president of the corporation operating the park since that time.

Mr. Allen's wife is the former Connie L. Hiller, the daughter of Rev. George W. and Mary Ellen Hiller of Carbondale. They were married on June 5, 1913 in that city. Besides the son who is his partner, Mr. and Mrs. Allen have two daughters—Mrs. Ray Arganbright and Mrs. Dwight Croessman. The family worships in the First Christian Church of Du Quoin. Mr. Allen served as secretary and treasurer of the church from 1922 to 1948. He also served on the building committee during the erection of the new church, one of southern Illinois' most beautiful houses of worship. For twelve years he was a member of the elementary school board of the city. He has served as secretary of the Du Quoin Chamber of Commerce and also has membership in the Du Quoin Lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is a Shriner. He was a charter member of the Du Quoin Rotary Club and sponsored the organization of the Club at Christopher. In politics Mr. Allen is a Republican. The development of Sunset Memorial Park is one of his hobbies. Other hobbies include the growing of flowers and shrubs and collecting antique furniture. Also, he likes fishing. A man of extraordinary ability, Mr. Allen has served his community to the utmost of that ability.

EDMOND JEWELL AVIS

Once in the mining and contracting business, through which he made a tremendous contribution to the development of the mining industry in Illinois and in Indiana and

Kentucky, Edmond Jewell Avis of Marion is today a leading figure in the dairy industry of Southern Illinois. He is founder and general manager of the Marion City Dairy. He is especially well known for his work with the Red Cross in Williamson County, especially under flood conditions, and for his activities in the Methodist Church.

Born on a farm near Collinsville, Madison County, on December 5, 1877, Mr. Avis is the son of Edmond J. and Sarah (Fairbanks) Avis. A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, the first Edmond J. Avis was a prominent farmer in Madison County. He was a leading Republican and Methodist churchman and served for years as a Township Commissioner. Sarah Avis was born in North Carolina. Edmond Avis the dairyman went to St. Clair County Schools near Lebanon. He worked on a farm in Franklin County until he was twenty-five and then entered the coal mines near Benton. At the same time he became associated with a contractor there. Later, he went into the contracting business for himself, with headquarters at Benton and West Frankfort, and from 1905 to 1922 he was president of the Jones and Avis Construction Company, which sank coal mines in Indiana and Kentucky. In 1922 he went into the dairy business at West Frankfort, calling his firm the West Frankfort Pure Milk Company. Five years later he moved to Marion, where he established the Marion City Dairy, of which he is now general manager. The company has a wide trading area and employs eleven persons. It has a modern ice cream plant. It is one of the up-to-date dairy firms of Southern Illinois.

Mr. Avis' first wife was the former Delci Moore and by her he had one child, Laverne, now in business at Herrin. Some time after her death he married Grace Simmons. The following children were born to this marriage: Eloise; Thelma; Dorothy; Carl E., who was a First Lieutenant in the United States Army in World War II and who was killed in action; Bernadean; and Kenneth E., who is associated with his father in the dairy business.

Mr. Avis, in his service to the community, has participated in many civic programs. He was a member of the Marion High School Board for six years and for seven years served as chairman of the Williamson County Chapter, American Red Cross. He was one of those who led rescue and salvage operations in the Ohio River flood of 1937. A member of the board of stewards of the First Methodist Church of Marion, he has headed

Lawyers of Chicago. He worships in the Trinity Episcopal Church, Mattoon, and gardening and golf are his favorite relaxations. He resides at 300 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon. In his service to the community, Mr. Van Meter continues traditions established by his forebears, the Van Meters and the Craigs.

OLIVER C. JOSEPH

It was as late as 1903 that the first trans-continental automobile trip was made. Only eleven years later Oliver C. Joseph, who had been an educator, went into the automobile business. Having begun with Dodge Brothers automobiles, he is today the oldest Dodge Brothers dealer in point of service in the state of Illinois, with offices, salesrooms and service shops in Belleville, the county seat. He is also vice-president of the Saint Clair National Bank of Belleville, and is a leader in civic, fraternal and welfare activities. A persuasive public speaker, Mr. Joseph is in constant demand at luncheons, banquets and other sessions.

Born in Saint Clair County in 1890, Mr. Joseph is the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Voison) Joseph, both also natives of that county. His father was a farmer. Mr. Joseph was an outstanding athlete in his school days. He began his education in the rural schools of Saint Clair County and was graduated from the O'Fallon High School in 1909. He was a letterman at high school and set a record for the 220-yard dash, a record which stands today. He majored in science at McKendree College, Lebanon, and studied biology and public speaking at the University of Illinois, Urbana. For six years he was an educator, four of them principal in the schools at Summerfield, a village in Saint Clair County. In 1914 he resigned that position to secure the franchise for Dodge Brothers automobiles in Belleville and he has been operating as head of Oliver C. Joseph, Inc., ever since.

In 1914, also, Mr. Joseph married Irma M. Seger, a native of Saint Clair County and daughter of Fred and Mary Seger. Three children were born to the marriage—Oliver Dee Joseph, Elmo Louis Joseph and Mrs Norma Brown, the latter the mother of Stephen Brown, who spends his summers with his grandparents in O'Fallon. The younger Oliver Dee Joseph is a talented and renowned musician, a flutist. Four times he has won the Gold Medal in the Illinois State Sectional Music Contest. In the United States Merchant Marine in World War II, he now aids his

father in the automobile business and conducts a manufacturing business of his own. Elmo L. Joseph, who is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, was an aide to General Rutledge in the Italian Campaign in World War II and is now associated with the Chrysler Corporation. The family worships in the St. Paul Evangelical Reformed Church of Belleville.

Not only as Dodge dealer and officer of the Saint Clair National Bank, but as civic and social leader has Mr. Joseph made a contribution to Belleville and Saint Clair County. He is past president of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, having held that office three terms, and is a director of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. Active in the Masonic fraternity, in which he holds the thirty-second degree, he is a well known Shriner and a life member of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children. Also, he is a member of the Optimist Club of Belleville, the Turkey Hill Grange and various sports clubs. His recreation is found in hunting and fishing. He has hunted big game—elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep and goats, and black and grizzly bears in the United States and Canada, and has many trophies to mark his success. As a public speaker making frequent appearances, night and day, he is serving in yet another way. In 1950 Mr. Joseph was fifty-nine years old. Yet he still works six days a week, ten hours a day, giving three nights a week to civic and social groups. His motto is work and he concurs in that great saying, "There is no substitute for hard work plus enthusiasm." Work has made him a figure of eminence in Western Illinois.

HON. WILLIAM WYMAN LYNN

An entire corner of Sparta, Randolph County, is occupied by a business which William Wyman Lynn has developed to great proportions and tremendous prestige from small beginnings. This is Lynn Furniture, Inc., of which Mr. Lynn is president and general manager. Mr. Lynn is also financially interested in the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Sparta and is a foremost citizen of the community, being active in all major civic enterprises and having served as Mayor for four years.

Mr. Lynn was born on a farm in Randolph County on October 27, 1882. He is the oldest of the seven children of Robert R. and Sarah Jane (Houston) Lynn. His father was also born in Randolph County and was the son

of William Lynn, a native of England, who lived in New York State until he moved to Randolph County and settled on eighty acres of land, where he died of tuberculosis at the age of forty-five. Robert Lynn, a farmer, was active in the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Sarah Jane Lynn, another who was born in Randolph County, was the daughter of a man who came to the county from Ireland.

William Wyman Lynn was educated in rural schools in Randolph County and at the Sparta High School, where he spent two years. At the age of twenty-one he left the family farm to enter the employ of the Illinois Southern Railroad. He helped dig the foundation for the railroad's shops in Sparta, and afterward worked in the shops, receiving fifteen cents an hour. Later, he worked as a carpenter in the railroad's car shops, and this job he held for eight years. Finally, he operated the woodworking mill, making timbers to repair the cars. When he left the line, he spent two years as assistant postmaster of Sparta and then returned once more to railroading, this time making patterns and molding old brass into engine parts. In May, 1912, Mr. Lynn and his brother Albert formed a partnership and bought out Taylor Brothers Furniture Store in Sparta and this, together with an undertaking business, they operated until 1938. At the dissolution of the partnership in that year, Albert Lynn took over the undertaking parlor, while William Lynn took the furniture end of the business and developed it into the great enterprise known today as Lynn Furniture, Inc. Modern in every respect, the business carries a full line of furniture, floor coverings, appliances and television sets. Mr. Lynn serves also on the board of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Sparta.

On September 27, 1905, he married Bertha Taylor, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Taylor. Mrs. Lynn's father was a noted auctioneer in Southern Illinois. He was a native of Sparta. Mrs. Lynn is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, and in the women's organizations of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Lynn have two children—Euneva Taylor Lynn Goodall, mother of Arthur L. Goodall; and Lucille Lynn Pirtle, the mother of Lynn, Konnie and Carroll Pirtle. Mrs. Pirtle's husband, K. R. Pirtle, is associated with Mr. Lynn in business.

Mr. Lynn has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church since 1929 and is also a trustee and a member of the pastoral committee. For

eleven years he taught a class of young married people in the church's Sunday School. He has been on the board of the Randolph County Fair Association since 1929 and is a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club. He is prominent in Masonry, being a Noble of the Shrine at East St. Louis. He has been through the chairs in the Knights of Pythias. On the Sparta school board for six years, he served as Sparta's Mayor from 1929 to 1933. He ranks high among those who have done most to promote the development of Sparta and Randolph County.

THEODORE DENNIS PARKHILL

Theodore Dennis Parkhill of Champaign heads a family consisting of four sons and four daughters, with respective husbands and wives, and in 1949 of twelve grandchildren—all of whom for a period of years ranging, according to age, from perhaps six decades to a few years have worked in concert toward the end that not only the family fortunes might grow but that the public be served to the utmost of their ability. From farming Theodore D. Parkhill has led his family into intercity and national transportation, ranching, gravel supply, and automobile and truck sales and service. The businesses, in most instances, have their headquarters in Champaign, but one enterprise, the Parkhill Montana Ranches, Inc., is located, as its name suggests, in Montana. Like Mr. Parkhill, the sons are more active in the businesses than the women, but all the family, old enough, contributes to the operations in one way or another. All are active in civic affairs and all are popular citizens of Champaign County.

The head of this family, Theodore Dennis Parkhill, was born at Shiloh Hill, Illinois, on December 14, 1871, the son of John and Eliza Jane (Rogers) Parkhill. His father, a native of famed Londonderry County, Ireland, and the father of ten sons, was a farmer. The mother, born at Shiloh Hill, was the daughter of James Berry and Ereminty Rogers.

Theodore D. Parkhill was reared on the family farm at Shiloh Hill. There he went to grade school. Later he spent a year at Ewing College in Franklin County. From farming Mr. Parkhill first went into the livery business. Then he was in the hotel business and for a while he also operated a meat market. Subsequently, he returned to farming, and he has never really left it since that time. There followed, in swift or sometimes slow succession, the implement busi-

basketball. He organized his own independent basketball team which has never been defeated in the city basketball league since its organization. His team gained recognition throughout the state and midwest. He went to the finals in the State Tournament at Bloomington, the Commercial Solvents at Terre Haute, Indiana, and the Sullivan Invitational at Sullivan, Illinois.

Mr. Gaines resides with his family at 2405 Moultrie Avenue, Matton. He has two brothers, Harry E. Gaines, athletic director of the Mattoon Senior High School, and Kenneth W. Gaines; and two sisters, Frances Fern Gaines and Opal Madaline Gaines. He is known for his good physical condition, his amiable disposition and friendly nature. He is described, too, as one of the great builders of the future Mattoon.

CHARLES WESLEY HALL, JR.

The tall stalwart figure of Charles Wesley Hall, Jr., of DuQuoin is a familiar one throughout the Greater Egyptian area. In that section Mr. Hall is known for his leadership in the automobile business and in agriculture. He is also noted for devotion to civic and welfare work and to organizations dedicated to community and regional development.

Born in Mount Vernon on January 14, 1912, Mr. Hall is the son of Charles Wesley and Alice (Allen) Hall. His father, a physician and surgeon, who was born in Hamilton County, was the son of John Carroll Hall, a lawyer and Republican leader of that county and the grandson of Hiram W. Hall, who served in the Union Army in the Civil War with the rank of Colonel. Dr. C. W. Hall, Sr., was a Major in the United States Army Medical Corps in World War I. He was later active in the American Legion and in medical organizations and community affairs. Alice Allen Hall, born in Jefferson County on March 15, 1888, died on December 27, 1932. She was the daughter of John R. Allen, a member of a pioneer family of Jefferson County. C. W. Hall, Jr., had one brother, two years his senior. Born in 1910, the brother, John Allen Hall, died in 1930. Mr. Hall is a grand-nephew of Dr. Andy Hall, of Mount Vernon, Illinois, who was selected as the nation's outstanding physician in 1949.

C. W. Hall, Jr., went to the public schools of Mount Vernon. He graduated from the Mount Vernon High School in 1930, then attended the University of Arizona, Tucson, and the St. Louis University. In 1934 and

1935 Mr. Hall worked for the Davidson Bakery in Mount Vernon. Then he joined the General Motors Company's insurance division staff, working out of the St. Louis office as an automobile insurance adjuster, with headquarters in Carbondale. In 1940 Mr. Hall bought the Chevrolet agency in DuQuoin and since then has operated as the Hall Chevrolet Company, of which he is sole owner. He employs seventeen persons and has full shop facilities. He has become one of the best known automobile dealers in Perry County.

On October 31, 1936, Mr. Hall married Virginia Capps, the daughter of Paul and Bernice (Begemann) Capps, and they are the parents of five children—Alice, born on August 16, 1938; Charles W., III, born on September 14, 1942; Susan, born on October 28, 1943; Nancy, born on October 17, 1944, and Allen Capps, born on July 24, 1946. The Halls worship in the Methodist Church, in which Mrs. Hall is quite active.

Mr. Hall is a former vice-president of the DuQuoin Chamber of Commerce, and is also active in the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the DuQuoin Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Greater Egyptian Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association and the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association. He is a Republican and golf is his favorite game. The owner of five hundred acres in Jefferson and Hamilton Counties, he is counted among the prosperous farmers. He further serves his fellow citizens through work with the American Red Cross. In World War II, he was active in War Bond drives. He is a figure of respect and admiration in downstate Illinois.

RALPH W. GOTHARD

An industrialist noted equally in the export and domestic trade, Ralph W. Gothard is the founder and president of the Gothard Manufacturing Company of Springfield, whose new and modern plant is one of the show pieces of industrial Springfield. The firm manufactures dynamotors, converters and motor generator sets. Mr. Gothard is active in community and state organizations.

He was born in Dundee, Illinois, on August 19, 1898, the son of William and Nellie (Nelson) Gothard, both also natives of this state. The father was a building contractor and farmer. Ralph Gothard received his early education in the elementary and high schools of Dundee and then attended the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated in

the Davidson Bak-
 he joined the Gen-
 ins ice division
 St. Louis office as
 adjuster, with head-
 In 1940 Mr. Hall
 ncy in DuQuoin and
 the Hall Chevrolet
 sole owner. He em-
 and has full shop
 e one of the best
 in Perry County.

r. Hall married Vir-
 of Paul and Ber-
 and they are the
 Alice, born on Au-
 , III, born on Sep-
 born on October 28,
 ober 17, 1944, and
 24, 1946. The Halls
 Church, in which

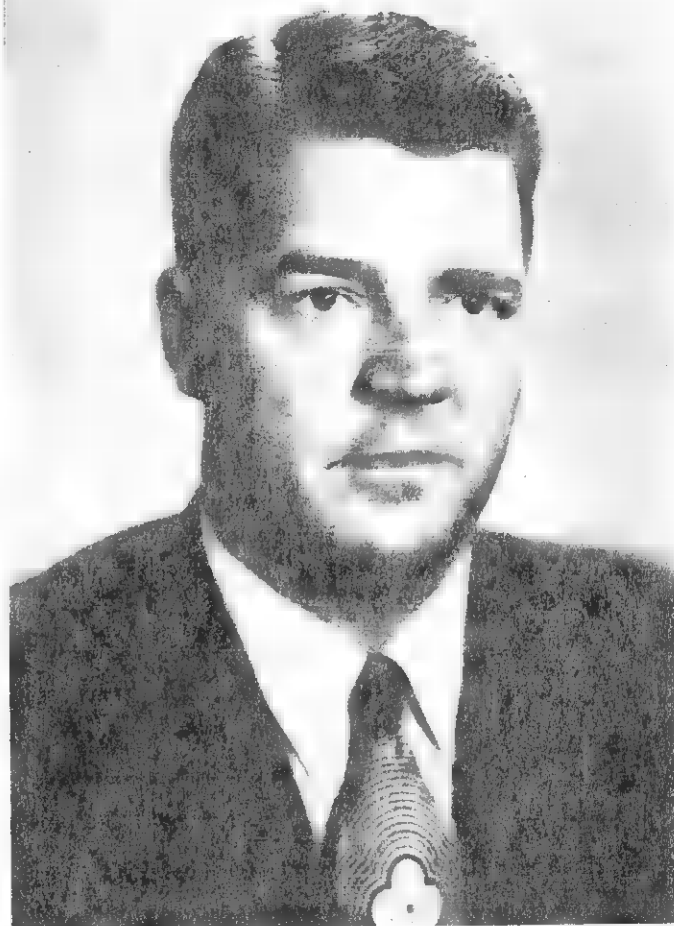
ice-president of the
 mmerce, and is also
 Chamber of Com-
 of the Benevolent
 Elks, the Greater
 National Automo-
 and the Illinois Au-
 on. He is a Repub-
 te game. The owner
 effererson and Ham-
 ed ■ ing the pros-
 r serves his fellow
 the American Red
 was active in War
 of respect and ad-
 ois.

THARD

equally in the ex-
 Ralph W. Gothard
 nt of the Gothard
 of Springfield,
 ant is one of the
 Springfield. The
 otors, converters
 Mr. Gothard is
 ate organizations.

e, Illinois, on Au-
 William and Nellie
 so natives of this
 uilding contractor
 received his early
 y and high schools
 led the University
 was graduated in

RICAN LIVES



CHARLES WESLEY HALL, JR.

1921 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. His first job after leaving college was with the Kroehler Furniture Company of Kankakee. He worked first in the Kankakee plant and then in the Chicago plant, and eventually was transferred to the sales department. Resigning from the Kroehler company's employ in 1930, Mr. Gothard went to New York, where he was a manufacturers' representative for several large concerns until 1938. In that year he returned to his native Illinois and founded the Gothard Manufacturing Company in Springfield. From a small-scale operation, Mr. Gothard has developed his business into one of the largest in its field, and he sells his equipment in all parts of the United States as well as in foreign countries. Export represents about twenty per cent of his business. Mr. Gothard built his present and most modern plant in 1945. In its 18,000 square feet of floor space are employed one hundred persons most of the year. The dynamotor manufactured by Mr. Gothard is a combination, as its name suggests, of a dynamo and motor. It is used to a large extent in police patrol cars, in boats of various types and aircraft and all other mobile equipment needing more than the normal amount of electric current and more than can be supplied by the average battery. So extensive has this piece of equipment come to be used that its maker's name has come to be known in many areas of the World.

Mr. Gothard married Sue Bailey, who was born in Wisconsin in 1908, in Chicago on July 23, 1928. They have one son, William A. Gothard, who was born at Chicago on May 20, 1929. The son was graduated from the University of Illinois, his father's Alma Mater, in June, 1950, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Mr. Gothard's membership affiliations are with the Springfield Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Liani Country Club of Springfield; the Chicago Athletic Club; the Sangamo Club; the Springfield Chamber of Commerce; the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce; and the Illinois Manufacturers Association. He gives considerable leadership to industrial innovations and to community programs.

HARVEY DAVID GREIDER

There was a time in the life of Harvey David Greider when, as a result of considerable wandering, he arrived in Decatur with one nickel in his pocket. Within five years of that time, he was the owner of a hotel

and on his way to wealth and a position of great importance in the community. By the time of his death in 1942, he had become one of Illinois' outstanding restaurant men, the owner and operator of the Decatur Restaurant at 161 East Main Street and the Greider Cafeteria, at 259 North Main Street.

Mr. Greider was born at Altamont on February 13, 1869, the son of Croft and Sara (Broom) Greider. Croft Greider is believed to have been born in Switzerland and to have migrated to Pennsylvania at a young age. After spending some time with the Pennsylvania Dutch settlements, he moved to Kentucky and then to Effingham County, Illinois. He operated a farm, which contained a small coal mine. Harvey Greider was educated in the country schools of Effingham County and in a Clinton business school. When he was twenty-one Mr. Greider left his father's farm and went to Montana, where he worked on the railroads and in the mines. Finding nothing satisfactory, he returned through Minnesota to Decatur about 1891, and it was then he found he was "worth only a nickel." Through a friend he was given a job on a ranch near Decatur, but later he took work as a handyman at the Illinois Central Hotel at the Decatur depot. In 1896, after about five years as hotel handyman, Mr. Greider bought a hotel in Clinton.

On April 29, that year, he married Mary Connelly, the daughter of Michael and Catherine Connelly, the ceremony having been performed at St. Patrick's Rectory, Decatur. Mrs. Greider, who survives her husband, assisted him in his restaurants from 1897 to 1913 on a part-time basis, generally as cashier. She bore him four children—1. Robert James Greider, who married Grace Rhea of Bloomington and is the father of Shirley Rhea and Mary Adele; 2. Lucile Katherine, who is now Mrs. James Walsh Kennedy of Miami, Florida and the mother of James Walsh Kennedy, Jr., and Harvey Greider Kennedy; 3. Harvey David Greider, Jr., who married Carolyn Kimball of Taylorville and is the father of Harvey David Greider, III, and John Kimball and Gretchen Ann Greider; and 4. Jack C. Greider, who married Rose Beretich of Chicago and is the father of Cecile Carolyn and Michael Anthony Greider.

After his marriage Harvey Greider took his bride to his Clinton hotel, and there remained one year. When the hotel burned, he returned to Decatur, and began in the restaurant business, later establishing branches in Bloomington and Springfield. About 1913

in that office ever since. Also since 1936 he has been a member of the board of directors of the Illinois Guarantee Savings and Loan Association of Effingham. Continuing his leadership in civic affairs, Mr. Danks has served as president of the Rotary Club of Effingham and has been master of Edgewood Lodge, No. 484, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has a fifty-year membership. He is also active in the York and Scottish Rite bodies of the Masonic order. Politically Mr. Danks is a Democrat. Strong physically and in constant good health, Mr. Danks, despite his advance into the eighth decade of his life, is seldom absent from his desk at the bank, except when he takes his annual vacation. He is outstanding not only in his business but in his civic and public life.

ROBERT C. SOLOMON

A name long identified with leadership activities and initiative in the opening and working of new fields in Illinois, has been that of the Solomon family of Springfield, Illinois.

Robert C. Solomon, Sr., orphaned at the age of eight, was raised by strangers until he was eighteen years old. At this time, he went to work as a coal miner for the Springfield, Illinois Cooperative Coal Company. With his savings Solomon eventually bought stock in the Cooperative Mine. He and another miner later left their jobs at the Company, and went to the south side of Springfield, where they became partners and purchased a mine which they named the Black Diamond Coal Mine.

In 1900 Mr. Solomon bought out his partner. It was about then that four of his sons, Peter, George, Robert C. and Edward, joined their father in coal mining. They operated the Black Diamond Mine for four years, which they then sold to the Springfield District Coal Mining Company. This first Black Diamond Mine was located at the junction of the Wabash and Alton Railroads one mile south of Springfield. In 1904 the father and sons opened a new mine two miles south of Auburn, which they also named the Black Diamond Coal Company. The four brothers worked and managed every department of the mining company. In 1908 the Solomons bought their third mine, the Cora Coal Mine, located six miles north of Springfield. In 1911 Robert C. Solomon, Sr., died, leaving the four sons to continue operation and management of the Black Diamond and Cora Mines. In

1916 they sold their second and third mines to the Peabody Coal Company.

In 1917 the Solomons organized the Panther Creek Coal Company, thus starting its development by sinking shaft No. 1 two miles north of Auburn. In the next few years, they purchased other mines as follows: 1925, Lincoln Park Mine, which was renamed Panther Creek No. 2; 1927, Spring Creek Coal Company and the West End Coal Company mines were incorporated as Panther Creek mines No. 3 and No. 4, respectively; 1928, Springfield Cooperative Coal Company mine, the mine originally worked by Robert C. Solomon Sr., became Panther Creek Mine No. 5.

Upon the death of George W. in 1939, Robert C. Solomon became president of the Panther Creek Mining Company. He was born in Springfield on July 28, 1882, and was educated in the grade and high schools of the capital. After spending two years at the Springfield High School, he attended a business school for another two years. Mr. Solomon married Florence Larson in Springfield in 1917. Mrs. Solomon, a native of Moline, Illinois, is one of Springfield's many active women. They have three children—Florence, born in 1921, graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and now the wife of Dr. William Smiles and mother of three children; Mary Louise, born in 1927, graduate of the University of Illinois, now Mrs. John C. Kanberg and residing in Springfield; and Robert L., born in 1931, now attending the University of Illinois.

Mr. Solomon operates the Solomon Grinding Service—a somewhat related business to mining, which grinds many ores and mine minerals for use in the making of paints, cattle feeds, and mortar colors.

Mr. Solomon is active in Masonry, being a member of the Knights Templar and Shrine. He worships in the Grace Lutheran Church. He is one of the top figures in the coal industry of Central Illinois.

HARRY ODELL POPE

Member of a family which has made a contribution to Illinois life since the early part of the nineteenth century, Harry Odell Pope of DuQuoin in Perry County has in various ways maintained the family tradition of service. Formerly president of the Pope Shoe and Clothing Company, Inc., of DuQuoin, he is now operator of the H. O. Pope Agency, a real estate and insurance business in that community. For a score of years he has been a leading figure in the Boy Scout movement in

Southern Illinois and is now secretary of the DuQuoin Council, Boy Scouts of America, a unit embracing fifteen Southern Illinois counties. He has also aided development and culture and promoted the spiritual life through influential activity in the Rotary Club of DuQuoin and the Presbyterian Church. He is a charter member and former president and secretary of the Rotary Club of DuQuoin and also belongs to the Business Men's Organization of DuQuoin.

Born in DuQuoin on November 8, 1876, Mr. Pope is the son of the late Benjamin Franklin and Deborah (Dickerson) Pope. There were four other children—Dr. Rolla D. Pope, now deceased; Beulah B. Pope, also deceased; Francis E. Pope, now with the Federal Credit Corporation in Washington, D. C., and Karl D. Pope, now residing in Long Beach, California. Harry Pope was born fourth among the five children. His father, ■ native of Zeigler, Franklin County, moved to DuQuoin in 1856 and established the first store there. He was a Republican active in public affairs. His father was Dr. Benjamin W. Pope, also a native of Illinois, a medical man of the era of the "saddle bag doctor." Deborah Dickerson Pope, born in Ohio, was ■ sister of President Warren Gamaliel Harding's mother. Her family settled in Marion, Ohio, a community made famous by the Republican president and publisher.

Harry Odell Pope attended the public schools of DuQuoin and completed his education with a course at the Spencerian Business College of Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated in 1899. He then came to DuQuoin and entered the mercantile establishment founded by his father in 1856. This firm was originally called Pope and Company, but the name was later changed to the Pope Shoe and Clothing Company, Inc., and of this firm Harry Pope was president for many years. He and his brother operated it until 1937. In that year Harry Pope entered the real estate and insurance business, establishing a general agency known today as the H. O. Pope Agency. This is one of the most successful organizations in its dual field in Southern Illinois.

Mr. Pope in August, 1902, married Lily I. Painter, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Painter of DuQuoin. Her father was general agent at DuQuoin for the Illinois Central Railroad. Mrs. Pope, educated in New York state and St. Louis, has been a prominent music teacher since 1918. She now has about forty-five students. She has played the organ and the piano for the Presbyterian Church in

DuQuoin since she was twelve years old. Mr. Pope is also active in the church, of which he became a member in 1917. He is now serving on its board of elders. Gardening—especially the growing of flowers—is his hobby.

STEPHEN DEXTER DOLE

Stephen Dexter Dole was the first of his name to settle in Coles County and he was not only one of the early farmers but also the co-partner in the operation of the first grain company. Also he was one of the founders of Mattoon itself—today the biggest community in the county.

Born at Bedford, New Hampshire, on December 23, 1813, Mr. Dole was the son of Enoch and Harriett Pauline (Dexter) Dole, and moved with his family to Rossville, Ohio, in 1819, and to Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1822. He attended private schools at Terre Haute, one of them operated by Mrs. Matthew Riddle, his aunt. With his brothers he then engaged in various businesses. They took grain on flat boats down the Mississippi to New Orleans and brought back sugar.

In 1849 Stephen Dole bought his Whitley Point Farm at Mattoon, where he established his home. His sister, Sarah Ann Dole, came from Terre Haute, Indiana, to keep house for him until his marriage. This farm is still in the possession of his granddaughter, Emily Dole Oblinger, a leader in Coles County's civic and social life, whose career is described in the story of her father, Daniel Harry Oblinger, on other pages of this Illinois Edition of the Library of American Lives. A brother, Joseph Collie Dole, joined Stephen at Mattoon in 1853 and the firm of S. D. and J. C. Dole was formed. This firm bought ■ large tract of land northwest of the present site of Mattoon, paying the Government \$1.25 an acre. At that time the country was covered with tall prairie grass and was without fences. Under their care the farms were improved and the Dole family was known throughout this part of the country for thrift, earnestness and honor. Perhaps no name is written more often in the transferring of property and looking up abstracts than the name of "Dole".

The brothers became extensive farmers and stock raisers. During the Civil War they contracted with the Government for the use of one of their farms for the corralling of disabled war horses. This farm is still known as the Corral Farm. Stephen Dole installed scales on his farm and it became the local

fel, born at Tuscola on September 21, 1940, and James Ray, II, born at Mattoon on April 6, 1948. The family resides at 921 Charleston Avenue and worships at the Central Community Church, Mattoon. Mr. Livesay is a trustee of this church.

He is a member of the Mattoon Hospital Committee, the Mattoon Civic Traffic Committee and other groups. His organizations include Rotary, the Masonic order and High 12 Club, the Radio Executives Club of New York, the American Legion and the Mattoon Country Club. Still and motion picture photography, flying and big game hunting are his favorite recreations. He holds a private pilot license and owns a private plane. As the Mattoon daily paper said in an article about him, "Mr. Livesay's sincere efforts to direct the facilities of WLBH so as to render the greatest possible service to the people of this community is a token of his deep appreciation for the fine way you have received and accepted your local radio service."

JOSEPH THOMAS CLANCY

In population Champaign County holds fourteenth place among Illinois' one hundred two counties. Through the work of Sheriff Joseph Thomas Clancy, the county holds a considerably higher place than this in law enforcement and freedom from crime. For Sheriff Clancy, once a member of the Illinois State Highway Patrol, has applied modern, progressive methods to the enforcement of the law in Champaign County and has as a result won an important place for himself among the peace officers of the State and nation. He is active in civic life and in veterans affairs, being himself a Navy veteran of World War II. He is prominent in fraternal organizations.

Sheriff Clancy was born in Tolono Twp., Champaign county on March 10, 1910, the son of Thomas and Margaret Catherine (Donovan) Clancy. Both parents are natives of Illinois also. The father, who achieved considerable prominence as a farmer, is now retired.

Sheriff Clancy began his education in the public schools of Champaign County. He was graduated from the Champaign High School in 1927 and seven years later entered the University of Illinois School of Commerce. He was graduated in 1938 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. At the university he took part in baseball and was on the freshman baseball squad.

Immediately after obtaining his degree the future Sheriff became sales engineer for the Nelson Concrete Products Company. In 1941 he resigned from this firm to accept an appointment to the Illinois State Highway Patrol, in which he achieved the rank of Lieutenant. On March 16, 1944, he enlisted in the United States Navy, in which he was commissioned a Lieutenant and with which he served until a few months after the end of World War II. He served in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Upon his separation from the service, Mr. Clancy returned to his native Champaign County, where he had been farmer, sales engineer, police officer and prominent citizen. On November 5, 1946, he was elected Sheriff of the county, and this is the office he holds today. His headquarters are in the court house at Urbana, the county seat. His home and that of his family is in the Sheriff's residence adjoining the Champaign County Jail in Urbana.

Sheriff Clancy married Alberta Brandon at Fairmont, Illinois, on November 25, 1939. They have become the parents of two sons—Joseph Brandon Clancy, who was born on February 13, 1941, and Edward Lee Clancy, who was born on June 12, 1943. Mrs. Clancy is active in women's club work in Urbana.

The Sheriff is a member of the Illinois Sheriffs Association, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Amvets; the Urbana Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 991. He is a Republican and worships in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Urbana. Hunting, fishing and golf are his favorite recreations. For golf he belongs to the Urbana Country Club.

Sheriff Clancy may not have the friendship of the law-breaking element in Champaign County, but he has the affection and respect of the law abiding community.

CLYDE A. BROWN

A leading figure in Pinckneyville, seat of Perry County, and the county as a whole, Clyde A. Brown is known throughout Southern Illinois. He is a man whose reputation has been established not only through business success but through the movements he has led for the improvement and development of the county. The growth of industry and general physical betterment of the communities was stimulated by his leadership, and he is also known for his wartime and health and welfare work. Since 1924 Mr. Brown has been the operator of the Brown Chevrolet

Company, Chevrolet and Oldsmobile dealers at Pinckneyville.

Born at Cutler, Perry County, on December 9, 1890, Mr. Brown is the son of David and Ellen Jane (McClure) Brown. His father, also born in Perry County, was a farmer. His father was Allen Brown, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, who after coming to America became a prominent contractor, house builder and landholder near Cutler. His original 640 acres are still in the family. Ellen Jane Brown's family came from South Carolina. She herself was born in Perry County. Clyde Brown is the oldest of four children, the others being Ethel, Grace and Mayme.

Mr. Brown received his education in elementary schools at Cutler and in the high school at Sparta, and then went to work in the experimental room of the John Deere Plow Company at Moline, where he was a mechanic. After two years with the John Deere Company Mr. Brown in 1910 returned to Cutler and there was employed in a grocery store owned by F. M. Norton. Afterwards he spent two years working with his father in a meat market and grocery, also at Cutler. When he left his father, he became general manager of a lumber and construction business at Percy, Illinois. This was owned by his father-in-law. In 1924 Mr. Brown began operations under the Chevrolet and Oldsmobile franchise at Pinckneyville. His firm, Brown Chevrolet Company, has grown to the stage where it employs eight persons. Besides a large volume of sales, Mr. Brown does a big business in repairs.

On November 4, 1913, at Percy, Mr. Brown married Carrie M. Davis, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Davis of that community. They worship in the First Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville and both are active socially in the county seat.

Mr. Brown has been prominently associated with numerous organizations and civic programs. He was president of the Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce for five years, during which time the town became the site of a garment factory, attracted by the efforts of the chamber, and also went through extensive developments, such as street paving. Politics is Mr. Brown's hobby. An outstanding Republican in Perry County, he is now a precinct committeeman at Pinckneyville. He has participated in War Bond and Savings Bond drives and in Red Cross activities and is a prominent Mason, being also a Shriner. In addition, he belongs to the DuQuoin Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and

the Pinckneyville Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Pinckneyville several years. Hunting is his favorite sport. Progress has been accelerated in Perry County under the leadership of Clyde A. Brown.

HON. JOHN MILTON (Brother) BURNS

The third generation of the Burns family to own and operate a feed business established at Sparta, Randolph County, around 1880, John Milton Burns has not only built that business—the Burns Feed and Produce Company—into an institution famed in Southern Illinois but made himself a leading figure in the civic life and public affairs of that region. His service to Sparta has been of such character as to bring him the office of Mayor, to which he was named when he was only twenty-eight years old. His administration has brought the community numerous progressive developments.

Mayor Burns was born in Sparta on August 21, 1913, the son of Alvin Howard and Katharine Mildred (Douglas) Burns and the grandson of John S. Burns. It was the grandfather, a native of Randolph County and originally a farmer and mule trader, who first established and operated what is today called the Burns Feed and Produce Company. Alvin Howard Burns, also a native of Randolph County, has been in business in Sparta most of his life. For years he operated the feed business now owned by his son. He now gives all his time to another business, the Burns Wholesale Grocery Company, which operates in a territory with a radius of twenty miles of Sparta and does a million-dollar volume annually. He is also active in public affairs, having served as Commissioner of Streets in Sparta for four years, and is one of the leading figures in the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and other organizations. The Mayor's mother is the daughter of Frank S. and Lula Douglas of Chester.

Mayor Burns, the second of four children, attended Sparta's elementary and high schools. When he was sixteen years old, and in his junior year at high school, he left school to take over the management of the Burns Feed and Produce Company from his father. He had worked in that business from the time he was thirteen years of age. He is now its sole owner. The company handles a full line of feeds, chickens, eggs, produce, fertilizer, paint and hardware and serves



HON. JOHN MILTON (Brother) BURNS

Company, Chevrolet
Pinckneyville.

Born at Cutler,
ber 9, 1890, Mr. B.
and Ellen Jane (M)
also born in Perry
father was Allen B.
Scotland, who after
came a prominent
and landholder near
acres are still in
Brown's family ca
She herself was b
Brown is the old
others being Ethe

Mr. Brown rece
mentary schools a
school at Sparta,
the experimental
Plow Company at
mechanic. After t
Deere Company M
to Cutler and the
cery store owned
wards he spent tw
father in a meat
Cutler. When he
general ma. per
tion business at
owned by his fa
Brown began oper
and Oldsmobile f
His firm, Brown
grown to the stag
persons. Besides
Mr. Brown does a

On November 4,
married Carrie M
Mr. and Mrs. W.
nity. They worship
Church of Pinckne
socially in the cour

Mr. Brown has b
with numerous org
grams. He was pre
Chamber of Comm
which time the to
garment factory, a
the chamber, and a
developments, such
is Mr. Brown's ho
publican in Perry
cinct committeema
participated in Wa
drives and in Red
prominent Mason,
addition, he belong
Benevolent a. ro

nearly all of Randolph County, operating an elevator which is certified to store Government corn and grain. It employs eight persons.

On September 25, 1932, Mr. Burns married Hannah Laura Smart, the daughter of Samuel and Lily Smart of Randolph County. Three children have been born to the marriage—Milton Roger, on December 30, 1933; George S., on May 24, 1935, and Patricia L., on February 9, 1937.

Mayor Burns' public service began chiefly in his activities as a member of such civic organizations as the Lions and Rotary Clubs, to which he no longer belongs; the Knights of Pythias, the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Then he was made Commissioner of Finance, a post he occupied five years. In 1941 he was elected Mayor of Sparta, and since then he has done many things for the city. He was instrumental in the establishment of a public library and for installing sewers and water systems in the Henderson Addition and having the Addition incorporated in the city of Sparta. Also, he was responsible for inducing the Spartan Publishing and Printing Company to establish its plant, employing 125, in Sparta. He is president of the Sparta Cemetery Board and since the age of twelve has been active in the United Presbyterian Church of Sparta. Mayor Burns is regarded as one of the most progressive individuals in the region.

HONORABLE PAUL W. POORMAN

As Postmaster of Mattoon since the early days of the administration of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Honorable Paul W. Poorman has had opportunity to assist not only that city but all of Coles County and the surrounding area to continue on a path of great growth and progress. Postmaster Poorman has taken advantage of this opportunity, and earned for himself the respect and gratitude of all the people. He is former president and treasurer of the Mattoon Grocery Company, Inc., which he founded, and is a leader in the Democratic Party and in conservation activities.

Born on the Poorman family farm in Humboldt Township, Coles County, in 1886, Mr. Poorman is the son of William Allison and Sarah Ann (Wamsley) Poorman. His father, born in 1842, was the first male white child born in that township and became a prominent farmer. He was the son of John W. Poorman,

who emigrated from Clinton County, Pennsylvania, to the west side of Coles County in 1836. He was a farmer and livestock breeder. The Postmaster's mother, born in Adams County, Ohio, came to Illinois in an ox-drawn covered wagon in 1855, when she was six years old. Her family settled on a farm next to the Poorman's.

The future Postmaster attended Humboldt's grade schools and the Mattoon High School, after which he went to the University of Illinois Preparatory School and spent two years in the agricultural classes of the university itself. When he left school Mr. Poorman went West and for a short time was employed at Portland, Oregon. Then he returned to Illinois, and engaged in farming and stockraising on the home place. In 1911, he purchased a grain elevator at Humboldt, and this he operated successfully for the next eleven years. In 1922 he disposed of this property and with his family went to Texas to investigate some land holdings of his parents. He and the family remained in Houston and Galveston about a year, after which they returned to Coles County. It was at this time that he organized the Mattoon Grocery Company, Inc., serving as its president and treasurer until 1934. In these years he had proved his public interest in many ways, and he had, of course, held a number of village and township offices. Since the days when his grandfather broke with the Whigs in 1836 and became a Democrat, the family has belonged to that party. The Postmaster has himself been a leading figure in the organization in Coles County for years. In 1934, on the recommendation of Congressman D. C. Dobbins, he was appointed Postmaster of Mattoon, and has since held that office. When he took over, the postal savings of the Mattoon Post Office totaled about \$200,000. In the years since Mr. Poorman became Postmaster they have risen to more than \$1,500,000. The flow of mail and parcel post has increased in the same proportions. Mr. Poorman was vice-president of the First National Bank of Humboldt, Illinois, from 1940 to 1945.

Postmaster Poorman married Mary Danner, youngest daughter of J. Danner and Mary (McNutt) Danner of Humboldt, in 1911. Mrs. Poorman is active in the affairs of the Central Community Church of Mattoon and the city's social life. There are three children—William Allison Poorman, born in 1912, who married Mary Ellen Shoaff of Shelbyville and is the father of Peter Gregory Poorman; Margery Louise, born in 1916, now Mrs. Jack

flowers much of the beauty, inspiration and stimulation there is in life itself. Robert L. Abbott, who is a World War II veteran, is active in Champaign's civic and business life and in church circles as well as in the florist trade.

He was born in Marion County, Illinois, on July 13, 1925. His father, S. C. Abbott, born in Craig County, Virginia, is the subject of a separate biography in this Illinois history. His mother is Annie F. (Wells) Abbott, the daughter of Samuel P. and Luvenia B. Wells.

Robert Abbott went through grammar and junior high school before entering Champaign High School, from which he was graduated in 1943. At high school he was active in dramatics. He did some college study at the University of Illinois and in 1946 joined his father in the firm of S. C. Abbott and Son, Florists, at 1501 North Prospect Avenue, Champaign. He attended the Floral Designing Schools in Chicago. He is a member of the Optimist Club of Champaign-Urbana, the Champaign Chamber of Commerce, Travelers Protective Association and an officer of Illinois Unit of Telegraph Delivery Service. From June, 1944, to June, 1946, Mr. Abbott was with the United States Navy and since his separation from the active service has been in the Naval Reserve. Golf, swimming, boating and ice skating are his chief diversions.

On June 7, 1947, Mr. Abbott married Dorothy L. Spencer, daughter of Miles M. and Renatha A. Spencer. The ceremony took place in Champaign. Mrs. Abbott, who is a native of that city, was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1947, and, elected to Alpha Phi Sorority, now belongs to its alumnae group. She is active in the health and welfare agencies of Champaign and Urbana as a volunteer and teaches in the Sunday School of the First Methodist Church of Champaign. She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Abbott is now also a member of the First Methodist Church. Before his marriage he worshipped in the Baptist Church. The Abbotts reside at 1505 North Prospect Avenue, Champaign.

One of the active young business men of the Champaign-Urbana area who are devoting themselves to the development of the entire county, he is rapidly winning a position of great prestige in the community.

HON. JOHN CHARLES NIESING

Many of the innovations and developments at Pinckneyville, seat of Perry County, may be traced to the leadership of the Honorable

John Charles Niesing. By unremitting effort, he brought paved streets to the city in place of the old cinder paths—not to mention paved roads outside the community—and he is the originator in the city of the annual Hallowe'en celebration which is community-wide. The entire county has profited from his activities. Mr. Niesing has served five generations of Pinckneyville and Perry County citizens through his clothing business, known as the J. C. Niesing Store.

Mr. Niesing was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873, the son of Joseph Niesing, a coal miner who was drowned in a coal mine near Pinckneyville in 1880. The body of the miner, who was a native of Boston and had moved his family, with his one-year-old son John to Perry County in 1874, was not recovered until 1918. John Niesing's mother was Tresa Kierst, a native of France, who came to the United States when a young girl. Her mother died on the ship enroute to the New World. John Niesing was born fifth among seven children. The oldest daughter, Mary, is still living; in 1949 she celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday. The others, Tresa, Ella, Katie, Joseph and Anna, are all deceased.

The Pinckneyville leader received his education in the public schools of Perry County and the parochial schools of Pinckneyville. When he was twelve years old he went to work on a farm. In 1887 he hired out to Edward Thorpe, a carriage maker, with whom he served an apprenticeship as a carriage painter until 1893. For four years more he was a bartender. In 1897 Mr. Niesing became a salesclerk for the J. Solomon Clothing Store in Pinckneyville, remaining with that enterprise until 1905. Then, he and a man named Wildy formed a partnership, launching a clothing business first called Wildy and Niesing. Mr. Wildy died in 1928, and since that time Mr. Niesing has been sole owner of the enterprise. He still does business in the original building, and has customers from every part of the county and beyond.

Three years after establishing the business, Mr. Niesing married Florence Esther Ritchey, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Ritchey of Murphysboro. The actual marriage date was August 12, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Niesing are the parents of one daughter, Frances Elizabeth, now Mrs. H. W. Bishop and residing in St. Louis.

When Mr. Niesing was president of the Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce—he held this office for fourteen years, probably a record in chamber of commerce history—he

initiated the series of annual Hallowe'en celebrations which continue to this day, a quarter of a century after the first one. For twelve years Mr. Niesing was chairman of the board of directors of the Murphy-Wall State Bank in Pinckneyville. He has been a director of the Perry County Agricultural Society since 1924 and he is a charter and lifetime member of the DuQuoin Lodge, No. 884, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has been a director of the Rotary Club of Pinckneyville since 1944. In 1897, he served as a member of the City Board of Aldermen and since that time he has helped the city grow from cinder paths to paved streets. He was instrumental in bringing industries, including a shoe factory, to the county seat. In the depression days, he served as chairman of the relief program for Perry County, under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Like the late President, he is a Democrat. His white hair and tall figure have come to represent influence and progress in the community, where he is greatly admired and respected.

ROBERT G. SMITH

A native of Coles County, Robert G. Smith has devoted his life to farming and to the development of that county, especially its rural areas. He is credited with an exceptional contribution to Illinois' Agriculture. A large-scale operator in the cattle-feeding phases of agriculture, Mr. Smith has also served the nation through his work with the Coles County Board of Supervisors and his membership and chairmanship of the Coles County Agricultural Adjustment Administration Committee.

Mr. Smith's birth occurred on November 2, 1889, in the very township in which he now makes his home and livelihood—North Okaw. His father, Thomas Irwin Smith, also a native of that township, was also a farmer. He was the son of Harrison Smith, a native of Tennessee, and Mary A. (Osborne) Smith, a native of Ohio, who were pioneer settlers in Illinois and who were among the early developers of the state's agriculture. Robert G. Smith's mother was Belle (Gray) Smith, the daughter of George W. and Mary E. Gray, and she was born in Humboldt Township. Mr. Smith began his education in the Smith School in Coles County and after being graduated (eighth grade), he attended the normal school at Danville, Indiana. In his youth Mr. Smith joined his father in the operation of the 320-acre family farm. They specialized in the feeding of cattle. Today—and for many

years—Mr. Smith has been feeding Aberdeen Angus cattle and he has a hundred and sixty (160) acre farm of his own in North Okaw Township. He is one of the leading figures in the cattle-feeding industry.

On February 1, 1911, at nearby Mattoon, Mr. Smith married Shella Mae Hunt, the daughter of Madison and Emma Hunt of North Okaw, Illinois. A son and daughter have been born to them—Robert Irwin Smith, who married Mae June Hulbert and they are the parents of Mary Ellis Hulbert Smith; Virginia Hunt Smith, who is now Mrs. Ross J. Hogue and the mother of Sharon Kristine Hogue. The address of the Smith farm is Rural Route No. 1, Mattoon. Mrs. Smith is a charter member of the Coles County Home Bureau, in which she is still active.

In his public activities, Mr. Smith served on the Coles County Board of Supervisors for two terms and for fourteen years, was on the Agricultural Adjustment Administration Committee, most of that time serving as chairman. He is active in the Masonic Blue Lodge in Mattoon and the Consistory of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite at Bloomington. In politics he is a Democrat. His hobbies include the breeding of Aberdeen Angus cattle, carpenter work and baseball. Mr. Smith is described as five feet nine inches tall and heavy build, light complexioned with gray hair. He wears glasses. His disposition, his friends and family say, is "good." He is highly admired in the region for his ability and sincere interest in the public welfare.

BEN DWIGHT ROBINSON

A name prominent in the agricultural life of Edgar County, Ben Dwight Robinson of Kansas holds a major position among cattle feeders, operating on farms totaling 468 acres. He is recognized as one who has made a major contribution to the development of education in the area and is a leader in Methodist Church and temperance circles.

Mr. Robinson was born on a farm south of Kansas, Edgar County, a few miles from his present residence, on February 15, 1901. His father, John William Robinson, a native of Clay City, was a prominent farmer who was the first man to serve as president of the Edgar County Farm Bureau. He was also, for several years, a member of the Illinois Agricultural Association's board of directors. His wife was Martha (Goble) Robinson, also of Edgar County, whose parents were Benjamin F. and Ann Goble.

Benjamin D. Robinson first attended the

